

# POINT BLINK

APRIL 1988

You better look hard and look twice...

## FROM BOSS TO PRINCE?

SPOT THE  
ROYAL FOOL!

### BRUCE: THE FORGOTTEN SHOWS OF '78

September 2nd, 1978

SOME PEOPLE have  
all the luck, part 95:

Two days after he  
queued overnight at the  
Hammersmith Odeon to  
secure third row  
Springsteen tickets (no  
press freebies), our  
very own Tony Parsons  
was assigned to review  
said future of rock and  
roll at the Palladium  
in Noo Yawk in two  
week's time. Hard  
world, innit...

Contrary to reports in last  
week's daily papers, Debbie  
Harry and Chris Stein are not  
getting married. Surely the  
over-publicised 'nuptials'  
weren't a figment of publicist  
Alan Edwards' much  
called-upon imagination? ...  
A ho Debbie is none too keen  
on our very own Danny Baker  
after last week's singles column  
in which Dan gave the  
thumbs-down to the new  
Blondie single "Picture This".  
For "Blondie Babes Baker"  
and other assorted scam, see  
page seven ...

Idle Threats Dept. Backstage  
at recent *Vicious White Kids*  
soiree, Sid made a ninny of  
himself by demanding lensman  
Denis O'Regan's *Dire Straits*  
badge as payment for a snap.  
When Den obliged, Sid — ever  
the gent — upped his price to £1.  
If not, he'd smash his camera.  
When Den refused, Sid — noble  
chap — asked for a fiver. The  
ever-present Nancy's attempts to  
restrain her other half were to no  
avail, and as a tottering Sid  
loomed large over Den, Rich  
Kids' manager Peter Warmley  
offered to hand over £5.  
"Each", demanded Sid. And so  
it was, each musician coming  
away with an extra ...



# T-ZER

## JOINS THE QUEUE

"Road To Ruin" the  
Ramones' live album for release  
in Europe (including the UK),  
Japan and Australia only, is now  
scheduled for late autumn  
release ...

Losers Repent ...

DJ Jerry Floyd liable for  
prosecution in a case of A.B.H.  
(Actual Bodily Harm to all you  
pansies) following a brawl with  
his flat-mate ...

BORN TO STAND STILL ...  
As darkness left the edge of  
town, the sun rose on nearly  
2000 bedraggled spirits in the  
night, who'd lined the back-  
streets (enough - Ed.)  
Assorted NME hacks mingle  
with members of Joe Public  
last Sunday morning for a  
chance at the Springsteen  
tickets. Roy Carr is the one  
with the hat ...

According to a report in last  
week's *Evening News*, Billy Idol  
has shacked up with Des  
O'Connor's daughter Karen.  
What is it with these punks?  
What with Col ...



ODEON HAMMERSMITH

HARVEY GOLDSMITH ENTERTAINMENTS  
ON BEHALF OF JON LANDAU MANAGEMENT  
PRESENTS

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN  
& THE E STREET BAND

SATURDAY, OCT. 14th, 1978  
EVENING 8:00p.m.

STALLS £5:00  
BLOCK

18

SEAT

047

No tickets exchanged nor money refunded  
THIS PORTION TO BE RETAINED



# BRUCE PLANS MARATHON TOUR

This one will REALLY run and run...

Report by TOBY SHURE

BRUCE has announced a massive tour - with a difference. To solve the problem of having to play giant stadiums due to his popularity, he's decided to do without them. No stage this time; he's going to sing and play while literally running rings round his audience.

The man who was born to run says: 'I guess I finally figured out how to reach all my fans equally, and beat the ticket touts too. Instead of my fans coming to me, I'll run past them! No arena, so no tickets - and no scalpers!'

The man they call the Boss said he got the idea while listening to one of his heroes, Roy Orbison, singing 'Running Scared'. Bruce was working out on the exercise machine in his gym at the time. Now he's training full-time to get in shape to run, sing and play guitar (and sometimes harmonica) at the same time.

## RACING WITH E STREET

His 'Racing In The Street' tour will also feature the legendary E Street Band. Nils Lofgren will follow Bruce on a motorised trampoline on wheels; Clarence will play sax while riding his bicycle; Max will play his drums on a specially adapted tractor; Danny and Roy will have their keyboards installed in a custom-converted double-decker bus, one deck each; Garry will play bass from his skateboard; and Patti's going to sing on roller-skates.

Nils added, between practising his backflips, 'It's great because we can all keep fit while we play, and our keenest fans can follow us for as long as they like.'

While not commenting on the fitness aspect, the rest of the band are said to be overjoyed at the prospect of all the suntanning time they'll get.

Jon Landau, Bruce's manager, is delighted. 'It kinda solves the problems of transport, hall bookings, lighting, you know. All we need is a corridor of security guys for the band to run through and a bunch of speakers set up along the route in a kind of endless chain,' he said, rubbing his hands happily.

Bob 'Bulldog' Wein, head of security, was unavailable for comment; he was training reluctantly for keeping up with the runaway success of his Boss.

Harvey Goldsmith, the promoter, was bitterly disappointed at the idea of not using tickets. 'It'll cost me two arms and two legs, know what I mean?' he puffed, jogging to see his bank manager.

At presstime no starting point or duration had been set for the unique tour, but knowing Bruce's energy, he could be running all over the world.

The first date is April 1.

Be seeing you!

?!?!?



◆ When Bruce Springsteen buys a bandanna, it costs about \$1.30. If it finds its way into the marketplace after he's worn it, it's worth \$300.



# THE FUTURE OF ROCK'N'ROLL IS BACK!

BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN & THE E STREET BAND  
Hammersmith Odeon

SPRINGSTEEN screamed softly; a high-pitched, soulful yell straight out of the R'n'B textbook. Two numbers into the first of his sell-out engagements at Hammersmith and he'd already shaken the audience alive and taken control; no wonder they call him "the Boss".

As if at a signal, the E Street Band swung into "10th Avenue Freeze-Out", and after a couple of verses Springsteen leaped - I kid you not - into the dancing crowd. The security had given up after the initial onslaught, a powerhouse rendition of "Good Rockin' Tonight" followed with barely a chord change by the crackling, anthemic "Badlands", fired with Springsteen's own considerable lead guitar work, sizzling with energy and electricity.

By this time the normally reserved London punters were on their feet, punching the air with Bruce on the chorus. It felt like the encores, but Springsteen was just getting warmed up. Within three songs he had transformed the gloomy Odeon into a sweaty club, and such was the sense of intimacy that you lost all sense of any barrier between stage and seats. Having broken the ice, the New Jersey rocker slowed the pace with the dramatic, proud title track of his latest album, "Darkness On The Edge Of Town".

Just when you thought it was safe to forget about Bruce Springsteen (remember him? The future of rock'n'roll, the new Dylan?), he's come back with a vengeance. As if the hype and overkill of '75 and his first disastrous British visit weren't enough (when he was slaughtered by the press which built him up), he suffered a lengthy lawsuit with his old manager, and you could hardly be blamed for thinking that was it. The "Darkness..." LP, arriving relatively unannounced back in June, seemed disappointing on the turntable: bitter and depressing (no wonder) compared to the heady joy-rides and orchestral operatics of "Born To Run". Tonight, Springsteen played most of the new album, a calculated risk which worked, energising the songs with an urgency and passion that transfigured the recorded versions, sounding fresher and fuller than the vinyl. A prime example (and undoubted highlight) was a killer "Prove It All Night", which I'd dismissed as merely a throwaway single. Just one of the things it proved was the uncanny ability and unity of the E Street Band, building from a deceptive piano intro to an overwhelming crescendo that left the ecstatic listeners gasping amid thunderous applause.

ODEON HAMMERSMITH

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After an hour and a half the band joined hands and made as if to leave, but Bruce urged the crowd to stay because he was going to play another full set - roars of approval. Sure enough, after a short interval, they reappeared and Springsteen led the huge black saxophonist, Clemons, into a rousing instrumental complete with Duane Eddy-type guitar solo. Obviously pleased with the reception this time around, the "Boss" announced "something special we've never played before", and began churning out the unmistakable guitar riff of the old Standells song "Dirty Water". He sang one line differently from the original: "London, you're my town!" and London loved it. Numerous other highlights included his hits written for the Pointer Sisters ("Fire") and Patti Smith ("Because The Night"), fitting in with the other newer material perfectly and easily surpassing the better known versions.

Three giant leaps for mankind next: the anguished "Backstreets", the rollercoaster "Rosalita", and the classic "Born To Run" uniting the audience and chilling the spine with its power. Maybe the future is here and now, after all.

Finally, the real encores: "Jungleland", a mini-movie with its vivid imagery and gorgeous sax solo; another new song, the Searchers-like rocker "Ties That Bind"; and just to make sure everyone was well and truly exhausted, one of the all-time great party tunes, "Quarter To Three". We couldn't have taken much more, but we stood and screamed anyway and at last Springsteen came back, dragging the drained band on, and somehow we danced through "Twist And Shout", Beatles style. And this was only the first night of five.

Three hours after their entrance, Bruce and his E Street Band bowed out proud and happy, and deservedly so. Their second coming had proved a triumph, blowing away the doubts and establishing them as one of the most exciting live acts around. If you didn't have tickets, I hope for your sake you won't have to wait another three years to see Bruce Springsteen - but even if you do, it'll be worth it.

NED F CHRAN  
Zero Range  
November 1978



## HARVEY GOLDSMITH ENTERTAINMENTS PRESENTS

Highlight of the week is undoubtedly the return of Bruce Springsteen to London after an absence of nearly three years. He finished a marathon four-month, 80-date U.S. tour last week, and will be performing his usual two-part American set during his short European tour. With recent gigs running past three hours in length, British fans are in for a special treat. Springsteen plays Hammersmith Odeon three nights in a row starting this Monday (9), with two more next week. Needless to say, they're all sell-outs.

**BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN  
& THE E STREET BAND****HAMMERSMITH ODEON****OCTOBER 9, 10, 11, 13, 14 AT 8:00 P.M.**

NO SUPPORT ACT  
Tickets £5 £4 £3  
On sale to personal  
applicants only, and  
limited to four per  
person. Box Office  
opens Sun. Aug. 27  
at 10:00 a.m.

Special thanks to Mike "Forger" Saunders  
for the '78 tour that never happened!